

P24085.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Michael HAUL

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Appln. No. : Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed : Concurrently herewith

For : DEVICE AND PROCESS FOR CONVEYING ROD-SHAPED FILTER
ELEMENTS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby wishes to bring to the Examiner's attention the following documents for the Examiner's consideration.

(1) JP 54-13195. This document is discussed on paragraph [0004] of the instant application; and

(2) DE 101 55 292.0. This document is discussed on paragraphs [0006] and [0042] of the instant application.

Applicant also submits herewith a copy of a European Search Report (in German) conducted in European Patent Application No. 02 02 0292, a counterpart of the above-

P24085.A01

captioned application. In particular, the European Examiner cited:

(3) US 6,415,474, which is cited as an “A” category document (i.e. a document indicating the general state of the art). In particular, the European Examiner indicated that col. 4, paragraph 1 and Fig. 1 are relevant to claims 1-19 of the European Application;

(4) US 6,371,125, which is cited as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that col. 4, lines 19-35 and Fig. 1 are relevant to claims 1-19 of the European Application;

(5) US 5,651,643, which is cited as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that Figs. 1-4 are relevant to claims 1-19 of the European Application. This document is discussed on paragraph [0057] of the instant application;

(6) US 4,372,710, which is cited as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that Figs. 1 and 2 are relevant to claims 1-19 of the European Application;

(7) US 4,368,742, which is cited as an “A” category document. In particular, the European Examiner indicated that Fig. 3 is relevant to claims 1-19 of the European Application; and

(8) US 2002/0088479 is cited in the Annex as a family member document of US 6,415,474.

Copies of documents (1)-(8) (as well as a copy of the European Search Report) are

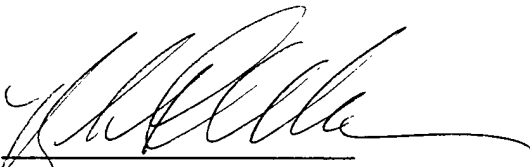
P24085.A01

enclosed as is a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing these documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider the above-noted documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

Applicant notes that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing of the instant application, i.e., concurrently herewith. Accordingly, consideration of the enclosed document is required under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1).

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael HAUL



Neil F. Greenblum
Reg. No. 28,394 *28,394*

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GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

